26th July 1952]

Collection of audit fees from the mutts and temples.

* 248 *Q.*—SRI T. ANANTHA PAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments be pleased to state what the Government propose to do regarding the continuance of Hindu Religious Endowments Commissioners in view of the decision of the Madras High Court that the Government shall not collect audit fees from the mutts and denominational temples?

THE HON. SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU :—" The decision of the High Court was that the provisions of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1951, relating to the collection of—

(i) contribution, and

(ii) audit fees

from religious institutions were *ultra vires*. The decision of the High Court in respect of audit fees does not affect the continuance of the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Administration) Department."

SRI T. ANANTHA PAI :—" In view of the decision of the High Court, is it the policy of the Government to recognize the autonomy of maths and denominational temples so that they may make free use of their funds without Government control? "

THE HON. SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU :—" The matter is now going to a higher Court and we cannot decide until the case is finally disposed of."

MR. SPEAKER :—" As the matter is before the Court, it is *sub judice*. I pass on to the next question."

Representations made by the prisoners of Salem Jail.

* 249 *Q.*—SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the prisoners of Salem Jail represented any grievances to the Hon. Minister when he visited the jail; and

(*b*) what measures has the Hon. Minister taken to redress their grievances?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The Government are considering them."

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that all the grievances represented to him, namely, water scarcity to the extent of allowing a bath only once a week, the Superintendent abusing the prisoners, non-supply of even slates, segregation, etc., continue and that the matter cannot brook any delay? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" No, Sir. Some of the demands have been complied with. Water